

Serial No. 09/856,861  
Art Unit: 1751

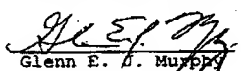
the rejection it drew no longer should be maintained. Claim 33, being otherwise free of the prior art, is now believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 21 and 23 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations of claims 21 and 23 have been incorporated in alternative form into claim 18, rendering that claim and all claims depending from it (i.e., all other claims pending other than claim 33) allowable. Thus it is believed all pending claims 18-20, 22, 24-31, and 33 are in condition for allowance.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. Applicants further ask for extension of the period for response three months to December 9, 2003 and authorize a charge to Deposit Account No. 01-1250 in the amount of \$950.00 for the extension fee. Order No. 03-548. Should any fees be due for entry and consideration of this Amendment that have not been accounted for, the Commissioner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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